

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. 6,210,193). Claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings as originally filed with this application.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and amended claims 2 and 7 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims now specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-7 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 2 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 2, thus redrafting claim 2 in independent form. Original claims 3-6 each depend from amended claim 2. Applicant's amended claim 7 comprises a combination of original claims 1 and 7, thus redrafting claim 7 in independent form. In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claims 2 or 7, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art reference is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.


Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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